

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /056 W

----- 043514

R 220700Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9164

INFO DOD WASHDC

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 7701

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: AS, PINT

SUBJECT: MINISTERIAL ROMANCE CREATES PROBLEMS FOR PRIME MINISTER
FRASER

REF: CANBERRA A-009 OF FEBRUARY 17, 1976

1. THE LONG STANDING LIAISON BETWEEN DEFENSE MINISTER JIM KILLEN (LIB. QUEENSLAND) AND MINISTER FOR SOCIAL SECURITY, SENATOR MARGARET GUILFOYLE (LIB. VIC.), SEE REFERENCED AIR-GRAM, WAS THE SUBJECT OF A HEADLINE STORY IN THE OCTOBER 22-28 EDITION OF NATION REVIEW. THE TWO MINISTERS ARE SEEKING A WRIT FOR LIBEL AGAINST NATION REVIEW, A SEAMY MUCKRAKING PUBLICATION; BUT OTHER CANBERRA POLITICAL REPORTERS ARE BEING PRESSED TO FILE SIMILARY STORIES.

2. ACCORDING TO WELL INFORMED SOURCES, PRIME MINISTER FRASER CALLED BOTH MINISTERS IN THIS MORNING, OCT. 22, AND ASKED THEM IF THE STORY WAS TRUE. THEY REPORTEDLY TOLD HIM THAT THEIR PRIVATE LIVES WERE NONE OF HIS BUSINESS. IF THIS IS INDEED THE CASE, FRASER NOW MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO LET THEM CONTINUE AS MINISTERS OR INSIST THAT THEY RESIGN THEIR PORTFOLIOS. THE COALITION PARTIES MADE A GREAT DEAL OF POLITICAL MILEAGE OUT OF FORMER ALP TREASURER
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JIM CAIRNS' AFFAIR WITH HIS PRIVATE SECRETARY, JUNIE

MOROSI, IN THE LAST DAYS OF THE WHITLAM GOVERNMENT AND IT WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR PRIME MINISTER FRASER, WHO INSISTS THAT HE IS A MAN OF HIGH MORAL CHARACTER, TO RETAIN KILLEN AND GUILFOYLE IN HIS CABINET.

3. EVERYONE IN CANBERRA SUSPECTS THAT THE TWO MINISTERS HAVE BEEN HAVING AN AFFAIR FOR YEARS AND EVERY DECENT POLITICIAN AND POLITICAL JOURNALIST IN CANBERRA IS DISGUSTED THAT NATION REVIEW PUBLISHED THE STORY WHICH GRAVELY INJURES TWO VERY CAPABLE PEOPLE. AT THE MOMENT, HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT THE TWO MINISTERS MAY HAVE TO GO.
HARGROVE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, PRESS COMMENTS, PERSONNEL CONDUCT, ALLEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: SmithRJ
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER07701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760396-0843
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761025/aaaaavdw.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 CANBERRA A-9
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINISTERIAL ROMANCE CREATES PROBLEMS FOR PRIME MINISTER FRASER
TAGS: PINT, AS, (KILLEN, JIM), (GUILFOYLE, MARGARET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006